REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments above and the reasons that follow.

Claims 1, 10 and 19 have been amended. Claims 2, 11 and 20 have been cancelled.

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-19 and 21-27 remain pending in this application.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,818,842 ("Burwell") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,256,314 ("Rodrig"). In response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 10 and 19 and respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Amended independent claims 1, 10 and 19 are directed to an ATM bridge device and a loop detecting method. For example, claim 1 is directed to an ATM bridge device, comprising, in combination with other elements, a packet scrapping judging unit that "if said transmitter address of said packet input from said ATM network and information about said transmission path through which said packet had been transmitted are matched with said transmitter address of said packet learnt by said second learning unit and information about said transmission path to which said packet is to be output," is configured "to scrap said packet, wherein when a packet is transmitted from a first device on the ATM network side to a second device on said ATM network side, a loop-back transmission mode is set to said packet to be received by said second device."

Accordingly, the device and method claimed in claims 1, 10 and 19 can detect the formation of a loop in an ATM bridge transmission. The ATM bridge device can then remove unwanted ATM network traffic produced by a loop and identify a point in the network where a loop has been formed.

In contrast, the cited references fail to disclose, teach or suggest each and every element of amended independent claims 1, 10 and 19. The Office Action acknowledges that Burwell fails to disclose "if said transmitter address of said packet input from said ATM network and information about said transmission path through which said packet had been transmitted are matched with said transmitter address of said packet learnt by said second learning unit and information about said transmission path to which said packet is to be output, to scrap said packet." *See* p. 3 of Office Action. To cure the deficiencies of Burwell the Office Action relies on Rodrig.

However, the combination of the cited references fail to identically disclose that "when a packet is transmitted from a first device on the ATM network side to a second device on said ATM network side, a loop-back transmission mode is set to said packet to be received by said second device" as claimed in the amended independent claims. The Office Action asserts that the above-mentioned limitations are disclosed in col. 3, lines 11-25 and col. 6, lines 39-44 of Burwell. *See* p. 8. Col. 3, lines 11-25 pertain to ridges or bridge/router configurations "when a packet is transmitted from a first device on the ATM network side to a second device on said ATM network side, a loop-back transmission mode is set to said packet to be received by said second device." Further, Col. 6, lines 39-44 describe extracting flow cells from a cell stream and redirecting the cells using a predefined header which is not "when a packet is transmitted from a first device on the ATM network side to a second device on said ATM network side, a loop-back transmission mode is set to said packet to be received by said second device."

Rodrig fails to cure the deficiencies of Burwell. Accordingly, Burwell and Rodrig fails to disclose all the claimed limitations. Thus, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn and independent claims 1, 10 and 19 be allowed. Further, claims 3-9, 12-18 and 21-27 depend from one of independent claims 1, 10 or 19 and should be allowed for the reasons set forth above without regard to further patentable limitations contained therein.

If this rejection of the claims is maintained, the examiner is respectfully requested to point out where the above-mentioned features are disclosed in Burwell and/or Rodrig.
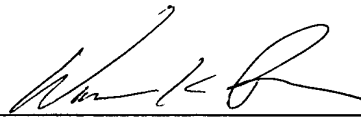
Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 11/10/08   By _____

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